

Introduction

In the name of Allah, Most Compassionate, Most Merciful

All praises are due to Allah; we praise Him; we seek His help, we seek His forgiveness; and we seek His guidance. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil in our souls and the badness of our deeds. For whoever Allah guides, there is none to lead him astray. And for whoever He allows to go astray, there is none to guide him. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, for whom there is no partner. And I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

Some people think that writing about this topic is writing about a topic that is from the periphery of knowledge. They approve of humans going over this topic in the quickest of fashions and not giving it much thought. They think that the benefits that accrue from such a study are very limited. Furthermore, they believe that being ignorant of this topic is not harmful at all.

However, I am not delving into something distant. Humans today spend billions of dollars with which they could build cities or countries and end poverty in the farthest reaches the world- and, instead, they spend that money on research to discover if there is life or if life is possible on nearby planets. Scientists spend a great deal of their time and resources on such a question. What about an existence that is known to be living and thinking and that lives right here with us on our earth? They live in our houses and they eat and drink with us. In fact, they even spoil our thoughts and our hearts. These creatures drive us to destroy our own selves and to spill each others' blood. They make us worship them or any other creature so that we will be deserving of the anger and wrath of our Lord. The Lord's anger will come upon us and the result for those who have gone away from their Lord will be a raging fire.

No price can be put on the importance of the texts of the Quran and authentic hadith that have reached us, giving us knowledge of this matter.

Those texts uncover for us the secrets of that existence: the world of the jinn. They give us enough information for us to know about the details of their lives. They also tell us how deeply rooted is the enmity between that creation and man. They also tell us about the extremes and continuous actions that they go through in order to misguide and destroy us.

Following up the numerous verses of the Quran that discuss the jinn and devils should be sufficient for you as an indication showing you the importance of this matter.

The one who looks over these texts knows that the life of a human is nothing but a struggle between him and Satan. Satan wishes to dominate him and take him to his destruction and ruin. The human who Allah fills with His light struggles in order to stay upon the straight path of his Lord and to help others remain on that path. In order to do that, he must fight against that enemy with respect to the inclinations of his soul, thoughts of his heart, and his dreams and aspirations. He must always scrutinize his goals and aims, both close and distant, in order for him to know how close or distant he stands from his Lord and how far he has purified himself from his enemy who is trying to lead him by his neck like a farmer leads his donkey.

I compiled the texts that discuss this topic as well as the statements of the leading scholars in this area. I pondered over what they wrote. The result was this book which is composed of six chapters. The first chapter is an identification and definition of this species: their source, their creation, their names, their types, their food and drink, their spouses, their residences, their animals and the abilities that Allah has given them. In the midst of that chapter, one will find the evidence that proves their existence and refutes those who reject their existence.

Chapter Two explains the goal for which they were created, the means by which they receive the message of their Lord and the generality of the Prophet's message to both jinn and mankind.

Chapter Three is the heart of this work. It discusses the following topics:

(1) The causes for the enmity between man and Satan; the evidence concerning the strength and depth of that enmity; and Allah's *warning for us concerning that enemy.*

- (2) The short-range and long-range goals of Satan.
- (3) The methods of Satan in misleading mankind.
- (4) His leaders in the battle and his soldiers.
- (5) The plots that Satan makes against mankind.

And that chapter is concluded with a discussion of Satan's secret whispering that is his weapon in ruining mankind and planting evil in their hearts.

Chapter Four covers a number of issues by which the devils mislead humans. They include:

- (1) Devils appearing like humans and talking to humans and the evil that results from such interaction.
- (2) Seances and the conjuring up of spirits; how authentic such things are and their relationship with the devils.
- (3) The extent to which the jinn have knowledge of the unseen and the evil that is the result of people believing that jinn do have knowledge of the unseen.
- (4) The jinn and unidentified flying objects.

In the fifth chapter, the weapons that a believer must have in his struggle against Satan are defined.

In the sixth and final chapter, there is a discussion of the wisdom behind the creation of Satan.

I ask Allah, Most High, to make this writing beneficial for its writer, publisher and reader. I also ask Allah to grant all of them its reward. I also ask of Him refuge for us from Satan. I also ask that He supports us with His help and care. He is the greatest protector and helper. And peace and blessings be upon His servant and messenger, Muhammad, and upon his family and Companions.

Umar Sulaiman al-Ashqar

